

Minutes: Virginia Board of Education
Committee to Implement the No Child Left Behind Act
Date: February 25, 2003
Location: 9 a.m., Senate Room B
General Assembly Building

A. Update and Status Report on U.S. Education Department Peer Review visit on ‘ Consolidated Application Accountability Workbook

Dr. Patricia Wright provided an update and status report on the United States Department of Education (USDOE) peer review visit on Virginia’s Consolidated Application Accountability Workbook. The peer review was conducted on February 24, 2003. Dr. Patricia Wright informed the committee of the following items the USDOE peer review indicated that Virginia should think about:

- Data systems-procedures for the state to verify/audit data received from the localities?
- Substitute tests-use of substitute tests whose scores may not be available in time for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) calculations?
- Flexibility-policy on the use of test scores of transfer students or those students not enrolled for a full academic year when they help a school and not using those scores if they do not help?
- Minimum N- impact data on using a “minimum n” of 50 for participation and for calculation of AYP
- Alternate assessments-alignment of alternate assessments for certain special education students to achievement standards for all students
- English language proficiency-documentation on alignment of English language proficiency (ELP) assessment and the state’s English Standards of Learning

The Board of Education president indicated that the Virginia Department of Education would respond once the USDOE provides a written letter of findings and recommendations.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction indicated that Virginia’s biggest challenge is the data system and collection requirements that must be addressed in the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. Virginia will have to scale up its data systems quickly to meet the requirements.

B. Criteria for Identifying Major Ethnic/Racial Subgroup Reporting Categories

Dr. Cheri Magill presented recommended criteria for the state to use in determining the major racial/ethnic subgroups that will be used in Virginia when disaggregating data for AYP calculations. An examination of the total student population in Virginia and those racial/ethnic minority groups that exceeded five percent of the total student population resulted in the identification of the following groups:

- White (not of Hispanic origin)
- Black (not of Hispanic origin)
- Hispanic

The recommended criteria will be presented to the Board of Education at its March 26 meeting.

C. Update on Board of Education Process for Approving Locally-Selected or Developed English Language Proficiency (ELP) Assessments

Roberta Schlicher informed the committee that a process for Title III sub-grantees to submit requests for approval of locally developed or selected English language proficiency assessments is being implemented. A Department of Education review panel will review requests that are received from school divisions and make recommendations to the Board of Education at its March and April meetings.

D. Review and Discussion of Criteria for Identifying “Persistently Dangerous Schools”

Dr. Cynthia Cave updated the committee on the discussion of criteria for identifying persistently dangerous schools (PDS). The criteria include categories of criminal incidents and an annual accumulation of points exceeding the thresholds for such incidents for over a three-year period. The points system will be based on the student population in the individual school buildings. The proposal will be presented to the Board of Education at its March 26 meeting.